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10/27/78 UNCLAS E F T O PRIORITY

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (62-117290)

TO FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

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UNCLAS E F T O

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/18/80 BY

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

AS YOU ARE AWARE, IN ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THE HSCA IS ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THE POSSIBLE DIRECT OR INDIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING THE FBI. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE HSCA IS TRYING TO RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION THAT PAID FBI INFORMANTS REPORTING ON THE INVADERS, A MEMPHIS YOUTH GANG, ACTED AS "AGENT PROVOCATEURS" AND INSTIGATED VIOLENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING THE SANITATION WORKER'S STRIKE, WHICH CAUSED KING TO RETURN TO MEMPHIS WHERE HE WAS KILLED.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH PREVIOUS HSCA REQUESTS, FIVE (5) FORMER MEMPHIS INFORMANTS WHO REPORTED ON THE INVADERS WERE CONTACTED BY YOUR OFFICE IN JULY, 1978, TO DETERMINE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO

JTA:PFM (2) 10/27/78 8988/4 3683

1 - MR. MINTZ
ATTN: MR. HELLER
1 - CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
ATTN: MR. J. J. JAMAR
1 - MR. BASSETT
1 - MR. RYAN
1 - MR. FOSTER

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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BE INTERVIEWED BY THE HSCA. ALL DECLINED. IN RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REQUEST TO REVIEW INFORMANTS FIELD OFFICE FILES, ROBERT L. KEUCH, DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, RENDERED THE OPINION THAT FILES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ONLY THE HSCA'S CHIEF COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR, G. ROBERT BLAKEY. INFORMATION IDENTIFYING INFORMANTS AS WELL AS THEIR IDENTITIES WAS TO BE EXCISED. ON OCTOBER 6, 1978, MR. BLAKEY COMPLETED HIS REVIEW OF THESE EXCISED INFORMANT FILES.

BY LETTER DATED OCTOBER 17, 1978, TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (COPY FURNISHED MEMPHIS BY FACSIMILE ON OCTOBER 24, 1978), THE HSCA REQUESTED [redacted] HSCA [redacted] BASED ON INFORMATION IN THIS LETTER, INFORMANT IN QUESTION IS [redacted] (MEMPHIS FILE [redacted] b2 b7D

OFFICIALS AT FBI HEADQUARTERS (FBIHQ) AND MR. KEUCH HAVE CONCURRED THAT THIS INFORMANT'S IDENTITY SHOULD NOT BE REVEALED TO THE COMMITTEE, BUT, TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENA FOR HIS IDENTITY, ANOTHER EFFORT SHOULD

BE MADE TO CONTACT INFORMANT AND DETERMINE IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE HSCA. MR. KEUCH REQUESTED THE HSCA PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INTERVIEW AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE COMMITTEE MAY DESIRE THE INFORMANT BE FURNISHED AT THE TIME OF FBI CONTACT. THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED IN HSCA LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DATED OCTOBER 19, 1978, A COPY OF WHICH WAS FURNISHED MEMPHIS BY FACSIMILE ON OCTOBER 24, 1978.

IN SUMMARY, THIS LETTER CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO INFORMANT'S ATTENTION UPON CONTACT:

(1) [redacted]

(2) [redacted]

HSCA

(3) [redacted]

(4) [redacted]

4-750 (Rev. 4-17-85)

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FBI/DOJ

IT SHOULD BE STRESSED TO [redacted] AT THE TIME OF CONTACT, THAT THE ABOVE POINTS ARE REASONS THE HSCA DESIRES HIS IDENTITY AND INTERVIEW. HE SHOULD BE TOLD THE FBI IS NOT ENDORSING ANY OF THESE POINTS AND WILL IN NO WAY ENCOURAGE OR RECOMMEND HIS COOPERATION OR LACK OF COOPERATION WITH THE HSCA. IT IS ENTIRELY HIS OWN DECISION. b2 b7D

IF INFORMANT AGREES TO INTERVIEW, HE MAY DESIRE TO INITIATE TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH THE HSCA, DISCLOSE HIS IDENTITY AT THAT TIME AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERVIEW. THIS COURSE OF ACTION CAN BE COORDINATED THROUGH FBIHQ. IF INFORMANT AGREES TO INTERVIEW AND PREFERS THE FBI FURNISH HIS IDENTITY TO THE HSCA, THEN A SIGNED WAIVER SHOULD BE OBTAINED, WORDED SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE FBI TO DISCLOSE HIS IDENTITY TO THE HSCA.

IF INFORMANT AGAIN DECLINES TO INTERVIEW WITH THE HSCA, HE SHOULD BE TOLD THE FBI WILL DO ALL WITHIN ITS POWER TO PROTECT HIS IDENTITY, HOWEVER, HIS FILE COULD BE SUBJECT TO SUBPOENA. OBTAIN FROM HIM WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES, IF ANY, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM FOR INTERVIEW BY THE HSCA. IF HE STILL PREFERS NOT TO BE INTERVIEWED UNDER ANY CONDITIONS, OBTAIN THE BASIS FOR HIS CONCERN AND ADVISE FBIHQ IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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JUSTICE (DOJ) AND FBIHQ IN RESISTING DISCLOSURE.

ON OCTOBER 26, 1978, MR. KEUCH ADVISED THAT PRIOR TO INFORMANT CONTACT, HE DESIRED TO TRAVEL TO MEMPHIS AND MEET CONTACTING AGENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE MEMPHIS PERSONNEL TO DISCUSS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE HSCA'S POSITION IN THIS MATTER, ITS RULES AND PROCEDURES, AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING INTERVIEW OF INFORMANT IF HE AGREES TO SAME. MR. KEUCH, AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, HAS SERVED IN LIAISON CAPACITY WITH THE HSCA SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE HSCA AND DOJ.

MEMPHIS REVIEW MATERIAL CONCERNING THIS MATTER AND INSURE APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL AND INFORMANT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 30, 1978, MOST LIKELY, OCTOBER 31, 1978. IN YOUR CONTACT WITH INFORMANT, DO NOT DISCLOSE TO HIM THE NATURE OF THIS MATTER PRIOR TO MR. KEUCH'S ARRIVAL IN MEMPHIS.

BT